

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: The Central Modoc River Center Capacity Building Project proposes to build capacity for watershed educational programs by providing outdoor field trips, publications and public event activities for all ages. The River Center, located in Alturas California, organized as a non-profit in 2003 with a mission to foster natural resource stewardship and to promote the sustainability of the local community.

Since 2003, the River Center developed a modest facility with interpretative displays and several environmental education programs. The River Center staff consistently coordinate with schools and resource agencies in bringing River Center programs to the community.

Currently, grant funding from several sources provides for a full-time Executive Director, and an Environmental Education Coordinator (contracted). The Capacity Building Project would continue funding for these staff positions once current funding is expended and provide for additional part-time educators. River Center staff plan and coordinate outdoor field trips for learning about watershed concepts, birding, geology, naturescaping, local sustainability, wildlife and more. The River Center staff publish environmental education articles, ads and photographs in local newspapers and publications. The River Center staff produce a quarterly newsletter, 'The Watershed Monitor.' The 'Monitor' is published as an insert in the 'Modoc Record' with distribution throughout Modoc County. The River Center participates in several annual special events such as the Children's Fair in May, the Modoc District Fair in August, the Wings of the Warners in September and the Pit River Clean-up, also in September. During 2007, staff also participated in the Modoc County Weed Tour, California Coastal Commission Coordinators Workshop, Project Learning Tree workshops, Resource Advisory Committee tour, Organic Certification for Agriculture Workshop, Naturescaping Workshop, Economic Vitality Group meetings and Watershed Management Strategy meetings.

The Capacity Building Project will provide for staff time to expand public outreach activities. An opportunity exists to take a leadership role in organizing the Wings of the Warners Migratory Bird Festival to include people from a regional area rather than limiting the event to its current local focus. The proposed project provides for staff time to implement a funding action plan identified in the Central Modoc River Center Business Plan. The business plan, developed in 2006 and 2007, identifies five sources to develop ongoing and sustainable funding for River Center staff and operations.

Total Project Cost: \$90,000